

I am extremely concerned about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force all of their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary. To add insult to injury, Sinclair has deliberately chosen to air this biased documentary days before the presidential election. This is not a public service gesture on their part. Instead, this coercion, on the part of Sinclair, is a prime example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and because of this, it is legally obligated to serve the public interest. When a large company like Sinclair controls the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for the people at large. This decision of Sinclair's is an obvious calculated political ploy intended to sway voter opinion just days before the election. It is not a service to the public to air such a one-sided politically-motivated message. It is more important that the public see real people and real concerns about our own local communities and focus more substantive, balanced news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, rather than weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I hope you will take these concerns into account, for there are many of us out here who have serious concerns about airing biased, one-sided programs such as this one that Sinclair intends to air. Thank you.